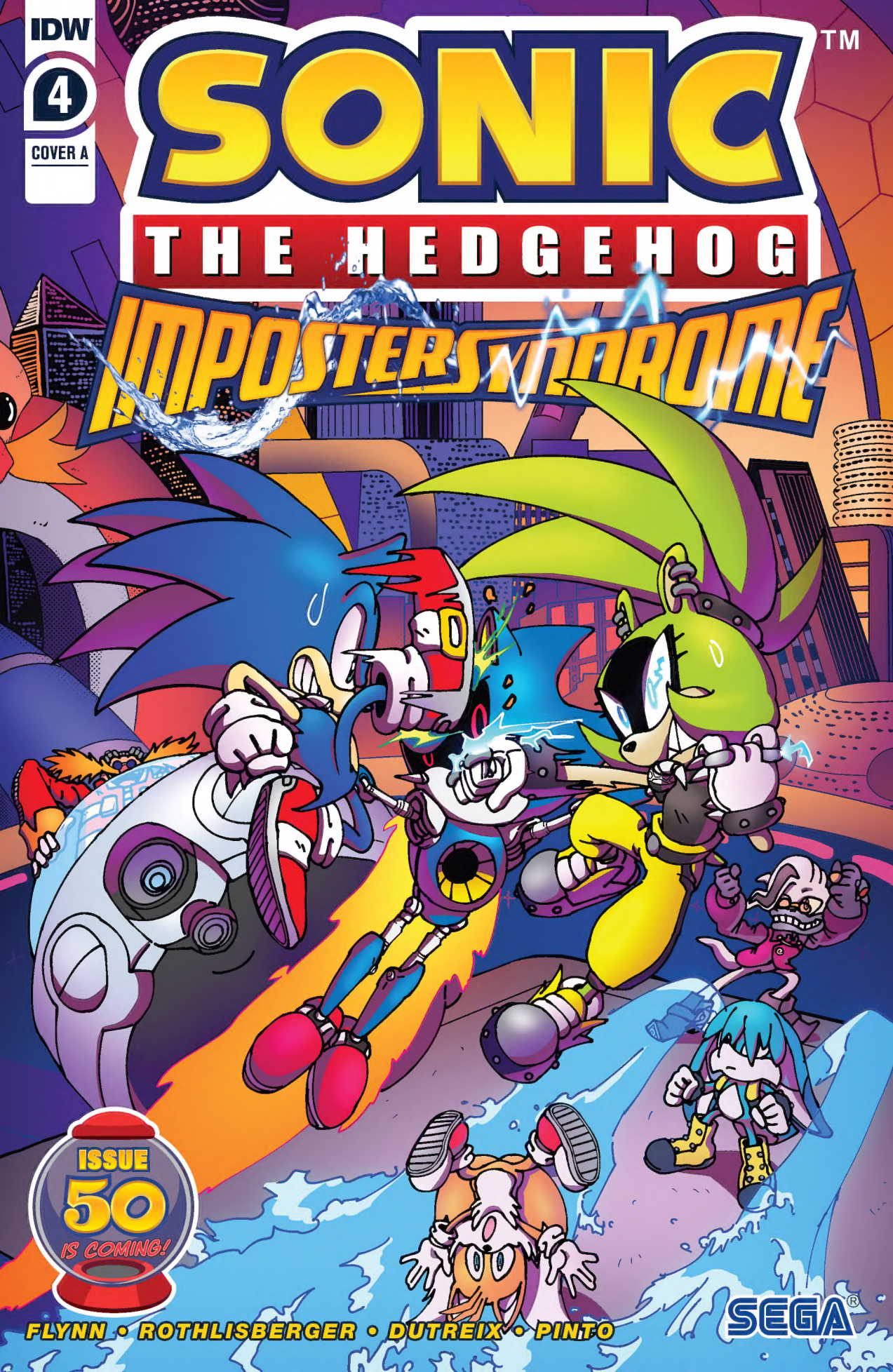

IDW
4
COVER A
SONIC™
THE HEDGEHOG
IMPOSTER SYNDROME
ISSUE 50 IS COMING!
FLYNN • ROTHLISBERGER • DUTREIX • PINTO
SEGA®

STORY **IAN FLYNN**
ART **THOMAS ROTHLISBERGER**
ADDITIONAL INKS **GIGI DUTREIX**
COLORS **VALENTINA PINTO**
LETTERS **SHAWN LEE**
EDITORS **RILEY FARMER**
& **DAVID MARIOTTE**

IDW
@IDWpublishing
IDWpublishing.com

Special thanks to Mai Kiyotaki, Michael Cisneros, Sandra Jo, Sonic Team, and everyone at Sega for their invaluable assistance.

For international rights, contact licensing@idwpublishing.com.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG: IMPOSTER SYNDROME #4. MAY 2022. © SEGA. All Rights Reserved. SEGA is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. SEGA and SONIC THE HEDGEHOG are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 2765 Truxtun Road, San Diego, CA 92106. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

Nachie Marsham, Publisher
Blake Kobashigawa, SVP Sales, Marketing & Strategy
Tara McCrillis, VP Publishing Operations
Anna Morrow, VP Marketing & Publicity
Alex Hargett, VP Sales
Lauren LePera, Managing Editor
Greg Gustin, Sr. Director, Content Strategy
Keith Davidsen, Director, Marketing & PR
Topher Alford, Sr. Digital Marketing Manager
Patrick O'Connell, Sr. Manager, Direct Market Sales
Shauna Monteforte, Sr. Director of Manufacturing Operations
Nathan Widick, Sr. Art Director, Head of Design
Neil Uyetake, Sr. Art Director, Design & Production
Shawn Lee, Art Director, Design & Production
Jack Rivera, Art Director, Marketing

Ted Adams and Robbie Robbins, IDW Founders

"...SURGE WILL REPLACE HIM, AND I WILL KEEP THE BRAVADO ON A LEASH."
YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD TOUCH ME? PATHETIC!

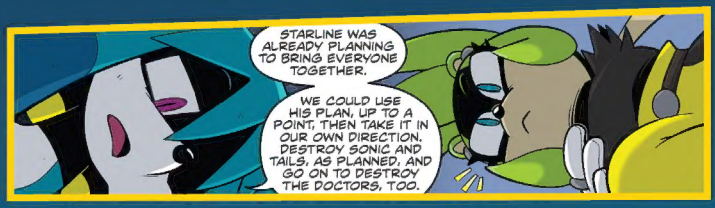
STORY SO FAR

"THUS KITSUNAMI WAS MODELED AFTER SONIC'S MOST BENEFICIAL ALLY: TAILS."
Y-YES, MA'AM. THANK YOU, MA'AM.

WE WILL ENTER ON THE SOUTH END. I WILL INFILTRATE THE WESTERN CONTROL TOWER AND UPLOAD THE COMMAND PROGRAM.
SURGE, YOU'LL BE ESCORTING KITSUNAMI TO THE EASTERN COMMS TOWER TO ENSURE NO ALERTS ARE BROADCAST TO THE EGGNET.

YOU HEARD HIM. WE'RE CYBORGS. HE PUT STUFF IN US, BUT HE DIDN'T MAKE US.
SO WHO WERE WE? VOLUNTEERS? KIDNAPPED? HEROES? CONVICTS?! WHO WERE WE BEFORE THIS?!

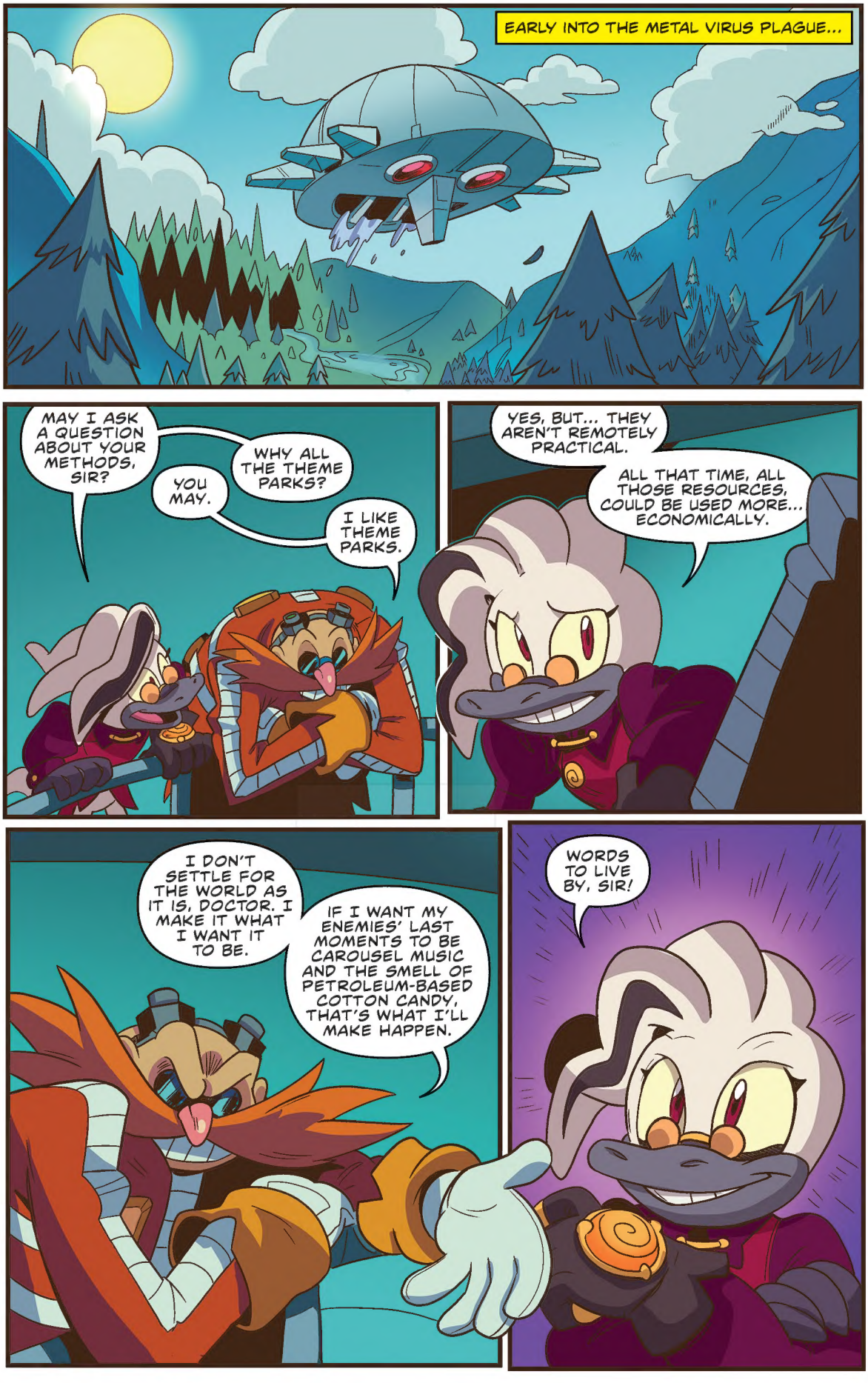
WE BURN IT ALL DOWN! SONIC! EGGMAN! EVERY IDIOT THAT FOLLOWS EITHER OF THEM!
WE END IT ALL! NO MORE HEROES! VILLAINS! NOTHING!
IF WE DON'T GET A PAST, THEY DON'T GET A FUTURE!


STARLINE WAS ALREADY PLANNING TO BRING EVERYONE TOGETHER.
WE COULD USE HIS PLAN, UP TO A POINT, THEN TAKE IT IN OUR OWN DIRECTION. DESTROY SONIC AND TAILS, AS PLANNED, AND GO ON TO DESTROY THE DOCTORS, TOO.

DR. STARLINE
Theatrical Scientist.
Nefarious puppeteer.

SURGE THE TENREC
The Mean Green.
Roguish speedster.

KITSUNAMI "KIT" THE FENNEC
Sorrowful Sidekick.
High-flying hyrdromancer.


EARLY INTO THE METAL VIRUS PLAGUE...
MAY I ASK A QUESTION ABOUT YOUR METHODS, SIR?
YOU MAY.
WHY ALL THE THEME PARKS?
I LIKE THEME PARKS.
YES, BUT... THEY AREN'T REMOTELY PRACTICAL.
ALL THAT TIME, ALL THOSE RESOURCES, COULD BE USED MORE... ECONOMICALLY.
I DON'T SETTLE FOR THE WORLD AS IT IS, DOCTOR. I MAKE IT WHAT I WANT IT TO BE.
IF I WANT MY ENEMIES' LAST MOMENTS TO BE CAROUSEL MUSIC AND THE SMELL OF PETROLEUM-BASED COTTON CANDY, THAT'S WHAT I'LL MAKE HAPPEN.
WORDS TO LIVE BY, SIR!

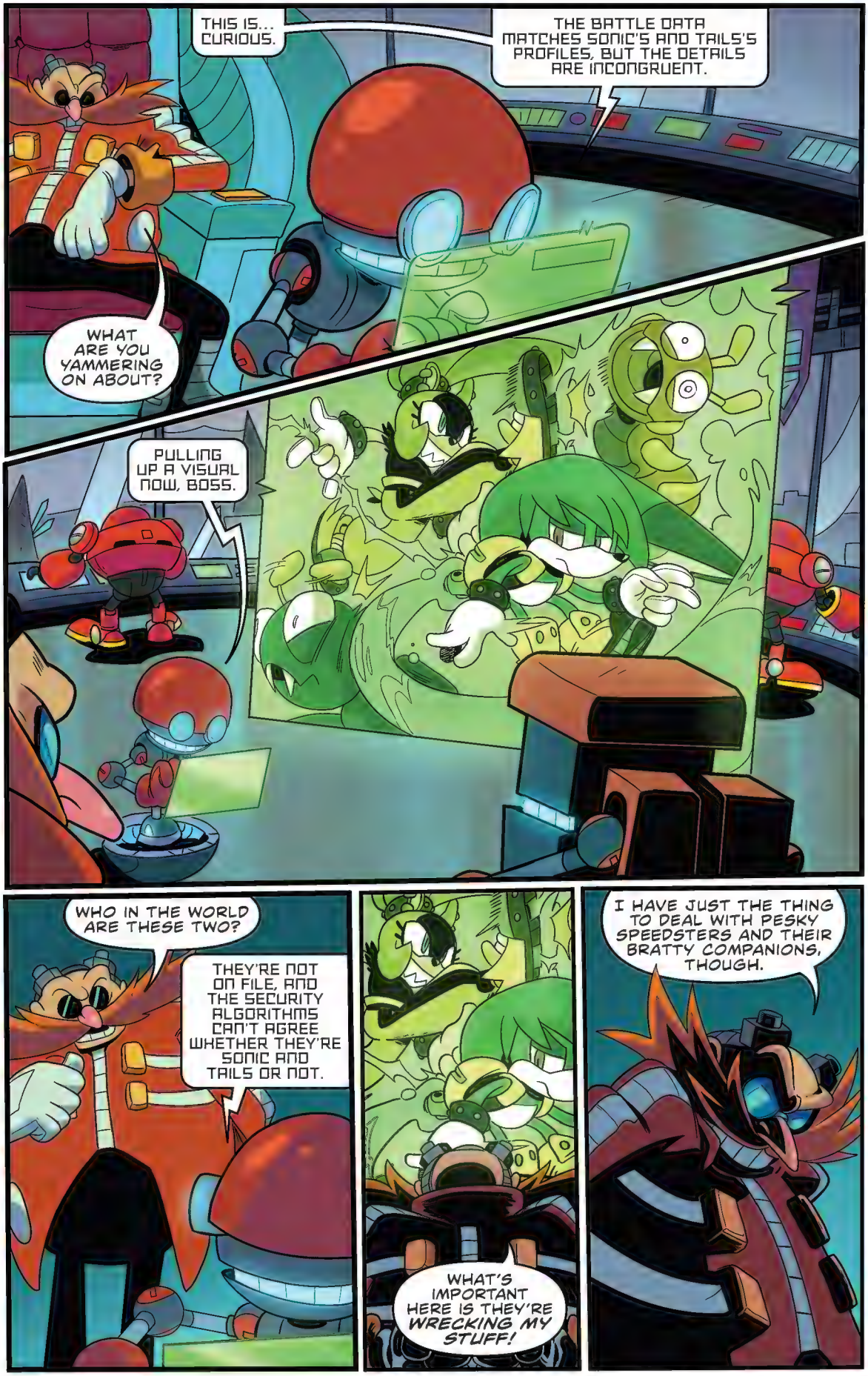
AND NO LESS INSPIRING, EVEN AFTER ALL THAT'S HAPPENED.
NOW.
TONIGHT IS THE BEGINNING OF THE END. DR. EGGMAN'S WASTEFUL WAYS. SONIC'S ENDLESS, FUTILE WAR WITH HIM.
THE SUN WILL RISE ON A NEW ERA! ONE WHERE WE CONTROL THE NARRATIVE! WE WILL GUIDE THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD OUT OF THEIR COMPLACENCY!
TODAY BEGINS MY GLORIOUS NEW AGE OF CHAOS AND TRANSFORMATION!
SURGE?
LET'S DO IT, DOC!
KITSUNAMI?
R-READY, SIR!
THEN LET US BEGIN.

WHAM
POW

KEEP DRAWING THEIR FIRE WHILE I UPLOAD THE OVERRIDE PROGRAM!
YES, SIR.
WE MUST MAKE ENOUGH OF A DISTRACTION SO THAT DR. EGGMAN DOESN'T REALIZE HIS SYSTEMS ARE BEING COMPROMISED.
MY ISSUES WITH STAR-LAME ASIDE, I DO LIKE THIS PART OF THE PLAN...
...UNRESTRAINED, WANTON DESTRUCTION!
GRAB ON, DRIPPY!
BOOM

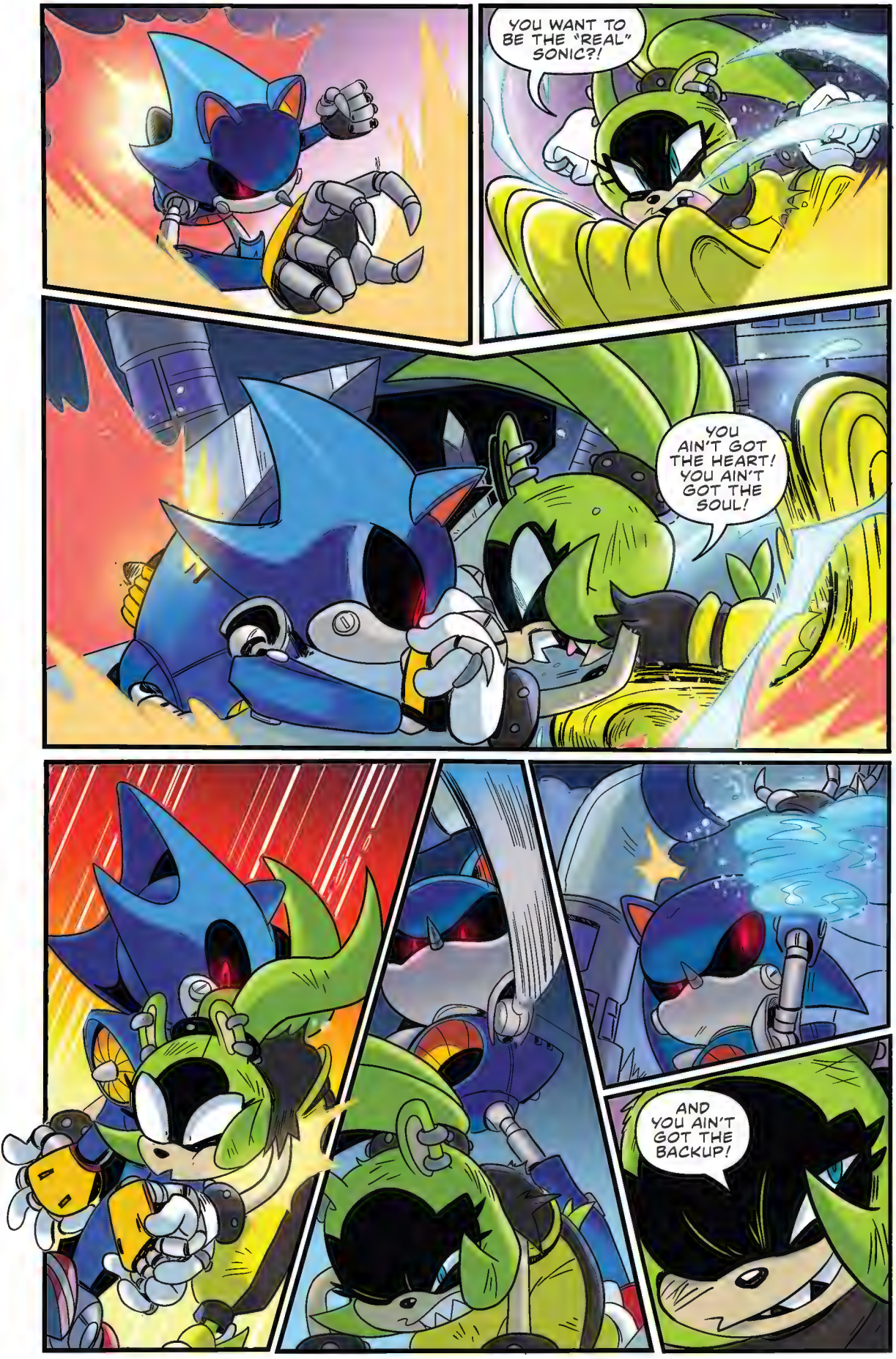
IT IS ALL RIGHT WE'RE USING DR. STARLINE'S PLAN AGAINST HIM... RIGHT?
EVERY DIRTY DEED WE DO TODAY IS JUSTIFIED, LITTLE MAN.
THE ONLY PERSON YOU SHOULD EVER BE LOYAL TO...
...IS ME!
SHUNK

DO YOU THINK THE BOSS WILL BE MAD WE WENT ON VACATION WITHOUT ASKING PERMISSION?*
I SAY WE HAVE FIFTY-FIFTY ODDS HE DIDN'T NOTICE WE WERE GONE. IF HE DIDN'T, WE'RE IN THE CLEAR.
AND IF HE DID?
THEN IT'S BEEN NICE KNOWING YOU, PAL.
*STH #40--EDS.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!
OH, Y'KNOW, JUST GETTING A LITTLE R&R--ERK!
WHAT HE MEANS IS WE WERE CONDUCTING RECONNAISSANCE AND...
...MORE RECONNAISSANCE?
WHATEVER. JUST LOG BACK INTO THE NETWORK AND GET ME A SITREP.
I'M GETTING REPORTS SONIC AND TAILS ARE MAKING A MESS.


THIS IS... CURIOUS.
THE BATTLE DATA MATCHES SONIC'S AND TAILS'S PROFILES, BUT THE DETAILS ARE INCONGRUENT.
WHAT ARE YOU YAMMERING ON ABOUT?
PULLING UP A VISUAL NOW, BOSS.
WHO IN THE WORLD ARE THESE TWO?
THEY'RE NOT ON FILE, AND THE SECURITY ALGORITHMS CAN'T AGREE WHETHER THEY'RE SONIC AND TAILS OR NOT.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT HERE IS THEY'RE WRECKING MY STUFF!
I HAVE JUST THE THING TO DEAL WITH PESKY SPEEDSTERS AND THEIR BRATTY COMPANIONS, THOUGH.

THIS IS THE BEST EGGMAN HAS TO OFFER?
PFFT. ONLY REASON SONIC HASN'T WON IS BECAUSE HE CLEARLY ISN'T TRYING.
CRACK
FINALLY! A CHALLENGE!

SPLAT
VREE-VREE-VREE
SFANG
SUPPORT ME, KIT!
I--I-- I AM!
IN THE FIGHT, STUPID!


YOU WANT TO BE THE "REAL" SONIC?!
YOU AIN'T GOT THE HEART! YOU AIN'T GOT THE SOUL!
AND YOU AIN'T GOT THE BACKUP!

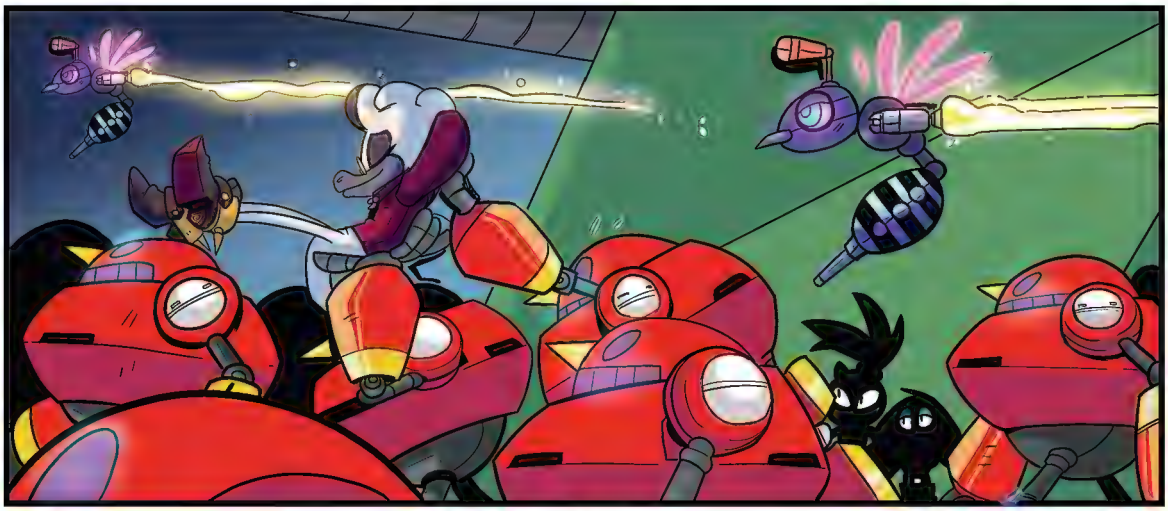
BRAK
NICE CATCH! DROWN HIM!
VREE-VREE-VREE

ZORCH
CLUNK
YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO BE SONIC. BECAUSE I'M GOING TO REPLACE HIM.
AND YOU'RE NOT EVEN GOOD ENOUGH TO BE MY FAKE.
HOW'S YOUR HEAD?
F-FINE! I'M HAPPY TO HELP IN ANY WAY!
HA! WE'RE GONNA GET ALONG JUUUST FINE, KID.

HOW DARE YOU! SONIC'S VICTORIES ARE BAD ENOUGH, BUT AT LEAST HE SHOWS SOME RESPECT!
UH... BOSS? I JUST NOTICED THERE'S A WEIRD LOG IN...
UPLOADING PROGRAM... 53%
DR. STARLINE?!
SALUTATIONS, SIR. SURPRISED BY MY RETURN?
NO, JUST THE MANNER OF IT. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO COME BACK BOWING AND SCRAPING FOR DARING TO SASS ME!
NOT SKULKING AROUND ONE OF MY SERVERS AND... AND...
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SUCCEEDING YOU, SIR.

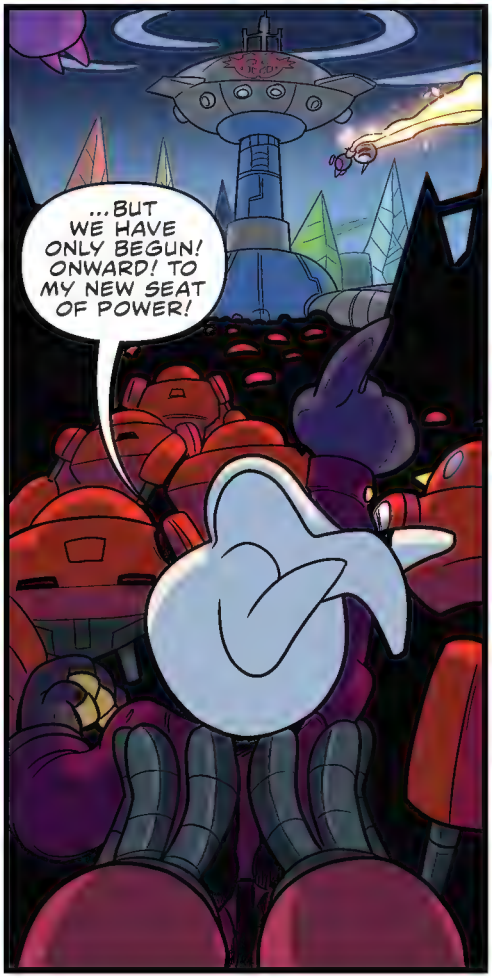
YOU'RE TO BE CONFINED TO QUARTERS, OLD BOSS!
THE MASTER COMMANDS IT!

SCRUNCH
SHWOOP



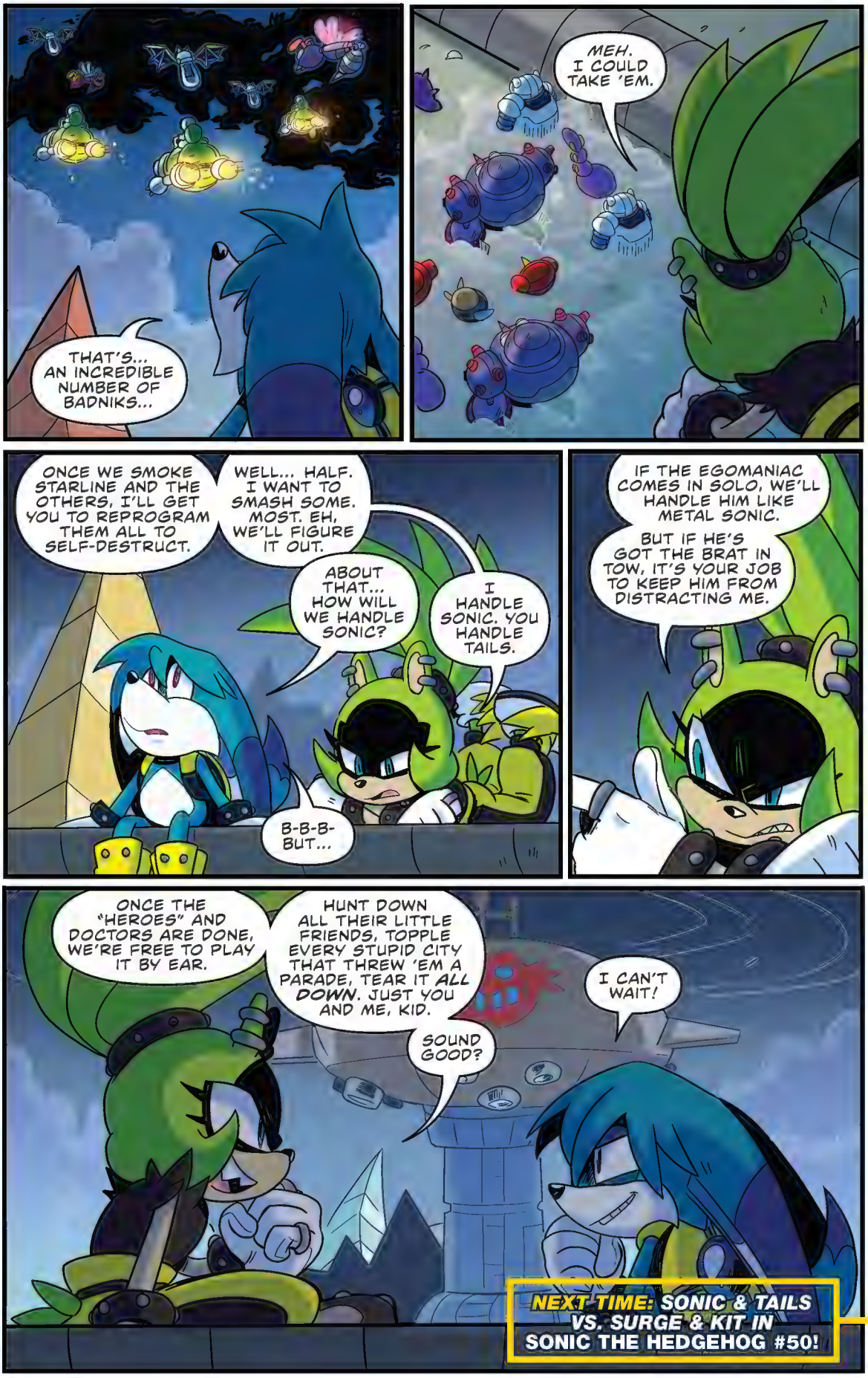
IS IT EVERYTHING YOU HOPED IT WOULD BE, DOC?

BITTERSWEET, AS I IMAGINED...


...BUT WE HAVE ONLY BEGUN! ONWARD! TO MY NEW SEAT OF POWER!

WELCOME, NEW BOSS. YOUR WISH IS OUR COMMAND.
TRANSMIT THE OVERRIDE CODE ACROSS THE EGGNET.
BRING EVERY BADNIK IN MY STARLINE EMPIRE TO ME.
"SONIC WILL SURELY NOTICE. UNDOUBTEDLY INTERVENE.
"AND THEN BE CONFRONTED-- AND REPLACED."
THIS IS HOW IT'S DONE. PATIENCE, PLANNING, AND PREPARATION. EVERY VARIABLE ACCOUNTED FOR AND CONTROLLED.
TONIGHT... MY MEAL IS *VICTORY*.

...WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
EGGMAN SQUASHED ME BEFORE ESCAPING.
ESCAPED?! WHERE?
HIS PERSONAL CHUTE TO THE MEMORIAL GARAGE.
THE DISPLAY MUSEUM HASN'T BEEN FINISHED YET.
AH... PERFECTLY MANAGEABLE THANKS TO MY PREVIOUS PLANNING.
"WHATEVER HE USES WILL BE TAKEN OVER ONCE HE GOES ONLINE.
"SEND A DETACHMENT TO GENTLY TAKE HIM INTO CUSTODY."
I THOUGHT I'D HAVE TIME TO REFURBISH ALL OF THESE. OH WELL...
...THIS ONE WILL HAVE TO DO.
ALL SYSTEMS: FULL POWER
FULL MANUAL CONTROL ONLINE... OFFLINE BOOT-UP COMPLETE... READY TO LAUNCH.


THAT'S... AN INCREDIBLE NUMBER OF BADNIKS...
MEH. I COULD TAKE 'EM.
ONCE WE SMOKE STARLINE AND THE OTHERS, I'LL GET YOU TO REPROGRAM THEM ALL TO SELF-DESTRUCT.
WELL... HALF. I WANT TO SMASH SOME. MOST. EH, WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT.
ABOUT THAT... HOW WILL WE HANDLE SONIC?
I HANDLE SONIC. YOU HANDLE TAILS.
B-B-B-BUT...
IF THE EGOMANIAC COMES IN SOLO, WE'LL HANDLE HIM LIKE METAL SONIC.
BUT IF HE'S GOT THE BRAT IN TOW, IT'S YOUR JOB TO KEEP HIM FROM DISTRACTING ME.
ONCE THE "HEROES" AND DOCTORS ARE DONE, WE'RE FREE TO PLAY IT BY EAR.
HUNT DOWN ALL THEIR LITTLE FRIENDS, TOPPLE EVERY STUPID CITY THAT THREW 'EM A PARADE, TEAR IT ALL DOWN. JUST YOU AND ME, KID.
SOUND GOOD?
I CAN'T WAIT!
NEXT TIME: SONIC & TAILS VS. SURGE & KIT IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #50!

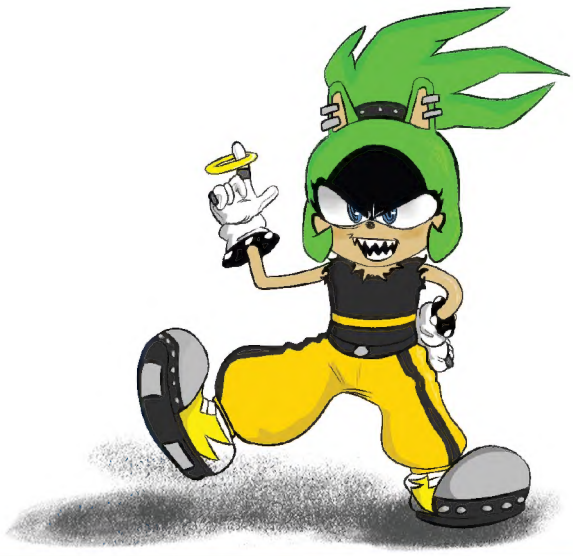
50
SONIC #50!

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Hello, Imposters! Poor Starline… His plans never work the way he intends. Thank you for joining Ian Flynn, Thomas Rothlisberger, Gigi Dutreix, Valentina Pinto, and Shawn Lee for the final issue of Imposter Syndrome. *Our inbox has been flooded with* Imposter Syndrome *art, so check out some below!*

Thank you for joining us, Squad. Please don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them, "OKAY TO PRINT"! And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, pick up **Sonic The Hedgehog #50** *to see the epic showdown!*

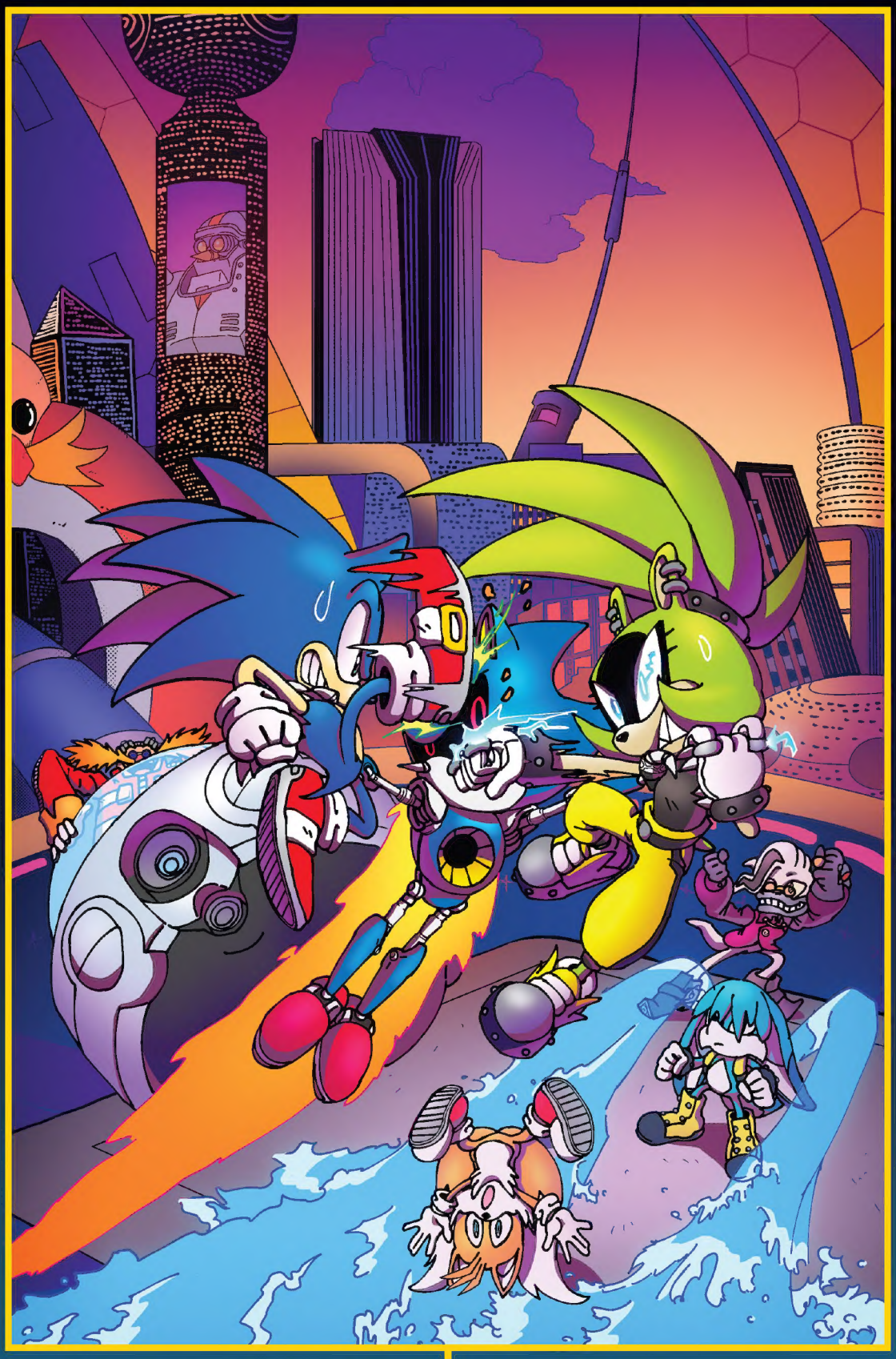
MARCUS


ART BY
GABRIEL
Gabriel Stinson.

ART BY
MADISON

ART BY
SKY HIGH ART

NORTHSPHYNX
2022
ART BY
RYAN



ART MAURO FONSECA COLORS JOANA LAFUENTE

ART NATALIE HAINES

ART NATHALIE FOURDRAINE